

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1.9422  
Fr 8T762  
Cap 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

612 Cotton Exchange Building Food Distribution Administration  
Phone Magnolia 2713

New Orleans, Louisiana.  
Wednesday, May 12, 1943.

TRUCK CROP NEWS FROM FIELD STATISTICIANS' REPORTS  
Released Thursday, May 6, 1943 - Washington, D. C./

**GENERAL:** Commercial truck crops in most sections of the country made fairly good progress during the second half of April. Weather continued rather cool until near the end of the month, however, and in most sections truck crops were 1 to 3 weeks later than usual. Sub-soil moisture and irrigation water were ample for the most part, but at the end of April many areas needed surface moisture.

In Florida, weather during the second half of April was generally favorable for truck crops. Below-normal temperatures which retarded development of some crops were ideal for such crops as potatoes and tomatoes. General showers fell during the period but more moisture is needed in practically all sections for crops which are to come into production during May. In other South Atlantic States, crops are responding favorably to warmer weather which developed near the end of April.

Conditions in all Texas districts were exceedingly favorable for harvesting operations, and the early potato and onion crops moved in record time. Snap beans harvest in the Lower Valley was in full swing and tomatoes were beginning to move in good volume. All south Texas areas needed rain for spring growing crops. The north Texas onion and east Texas tomato crops continued to average about a week or 10 days later than usual. Most South Central States needed additional moisture on May 1, and crops were somewhat less advanced than usual for that date.

**SNAP BEANS:** Florida is now at its peak of spring bean production. The Everglades Section is still the main source of supply, but has not reached expected proportion due mainly to shortage of labor. There is a wide range in quality. Cannons in Florida and neighboring States are taking a large portion of the crop. Central and north Florida sections are now at the height of their production and should continue to ship in volume through May 15. Yields have been greatly reduced over the entire areas by generally unfavorable growing conditions. The Mississippi snap bean crop averages late but fairly good yields are expected if rains come soon. Continued dry weather will reduce yields expectations. Harvest of the more advanced plantings is expected to begin about May 17. In Louisiana, progress of snap beans was satisfactory until recently. The soil is now quite dry and the crop needs rain, particularly in the Florida Parishes. Much of the acreage is late with heavy marketings expected the second week of May and peak shipments the third week.

**CABBAGE:** The Mississippi cabbage crop needs rain and as a whole is producing rather small heads. Fields will be further reduced if dry weather continues. Carlot shipments are expected to begin about May 5. In Louisiana, most of the cabbage in the southern part of the State has been harvested. Late cabbage headed poorly. Small heads predominate while those which attained satisfactory size are light.

**CANTALOUPS:** A few California early cantaloups have appeared in Coastal markets from the Imperial Valley planting. Although there will be a small carlot movement out of the Valley during the next two weeks, there will not be any appreciable volume until mid-May. Plantings in the San Joaquin Valley are still being made. Indications point to a heavier acreage than was expected two weeks ago. In Arizona, growing conditions have been favorable and cantaloups are doing well in all growing sections. Stands are excellent. In the Yuma Section, some cantaloups will be picked for local use and for truck and express to nearby sections by May 15. Carlot movement is expected to begin May 20, with volume shipments about June 20. In the early districts, of Texas, fairly good progress is being made. The dry weather is favorable for the irrigated crop in the Laredo district and present prospects point to a light harvest starting about the middle of May.

**CELERY:** Shipments of Florida celery are being maintained at fairly uniform level. The Oviedo section is approaching its peak movement. The acreage around Weirsdale and Island Grove is looking good. The Everglades and Sarasota acreages are holding up well. Conditions in all sections have been most favorable for late celery and indications are that the crop will reach full development with a steady volume until May 15, after which time shipments will decline rapidly.

**GREEN CORN:** The first solid car of Texas green corn was loaded in the Lower Valley the latter part of April, or about a week earlier than shipments started last year. Crops are in good condition and supplies will be plentiful beginning early in May. There is considerable acreage of early corn in areas outside of the Lower Valley, particularly the Laredo district, that should have production available around the middle of May.

**GARLIC:** In Louisiana, garlic is doing well in Pointe Coupee Parish but the outlook is less favorable in Lafouche. Harvest is beginning on a small scale in the southern part of the State.

**LETTUCE:** In California, harvest in the Salinas - Watsonville area has been in its peak during the past week. Rains temporarily slowed cutting, and it is expected that the movement will continue fairly heavy for the next 10 days, after which time shipments should taper off. In Washington, the lettuce crop in King County is in excellent condition for the most part, although about two weeks behind normal. Some cutting is expected in King County the last week of May, with the peak coming about mid-June. In Pierce County, the early crop will be harvested the first of June.

**ONIONS:** A few California early red onions have made their appearance in local markets from plantings in the San Joaquin Valley, and it is expected that there will be a fair local movement toward the middle of May. Some early Coachella Valley onions are also moving into the Los Angeles market. Harvest in this area will increase and it is quite possible that carlots may be available by mid-May. Louisiana onions appear to be doing well in the New Roads area but the Lafouche Parish crop is being injured by thrips and downy mildew.

**GREEN PEPPERS:** In Florida, plantings in Broward and Palm Beach counties made a very good comeback after being cut down by the February freeze, and are turning out a fair yield. Sizes are generally small with occasional lots of outstanding quality. The crop in central Florida is irregular with some advanced fields being picked now. Marion county should begin shipping June 1.

**POTATOES:** Shipments of potatoes from the Texas Lower Valley are expected to be completed the week ending May 8, with not over 150 cars expected to be shipped after May 1. Shipments of potatoes from the Houma, Louisiana area are expected to be well under way by about May 6; from the New Roads area a few days later. Movement from the State should be at peak volume during the last half of May. In Alabama, digging of the important Baldwin County crop is just getting under way. A few growers dug last week and sold "field run" in the field. Packing platform operations will start this week when digging becomes general throughout the area. Peak movement is expected during the third week in May. The crop is in excellent shape but later plantings could use a rain to advantage. Yields will be normal or better in spite of early freezes.

In Florida, the late Red Bliss acreage, which is now being dug, is producing low yields, and most of this crop is being sold locally. In Kern County, California, harvest in the Edison district is in full progress and shipments will increase during May. It is not expected that growers will appreciably delay their harvest during early May. Quality of the early harvest has been exceptionally good.

**TOMATOES:** Production of tomatoes in the Imperial Valley of California will increase during the next two weeks. The peak of the deal is expected the latter part of May and early June. Plantings of intermediate acreage in southern California are light but have made good progress.

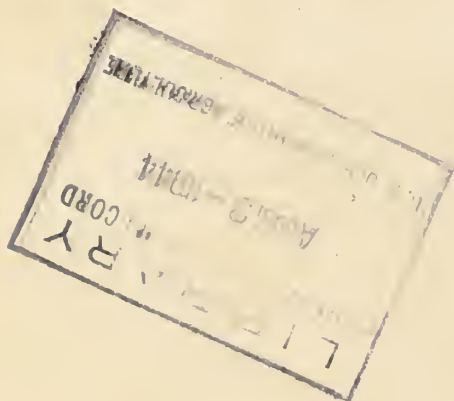
(Over)



**TOMATOES CONT'D** Harvest of the Texas Lower Valley crop is under way in fairly good volume with most of the present supplies coming from the west end of the Valley and north of Elginburg. This area received a good rain the last half of April that was of material benefit. Plantings on irrigated land in other sections of the Valley are being well cared for, and plants are in generally good condition. Shipments from all irrigated districts should be active beginning the early part of May. Peak movement is expected the week of May 17-23. Crops in the Yoakum district are making good progress, but supplies for carlot movement are not expected to be available until around May 10-15. East Texas tomato prospects continue to be about a week late.

In North Louisiana the last half of April was too cool for tomatoes, and the crop continues to be late. Frost the middle of April took a further toll of plants and retarded growth. Most areas need rain. The Mississippi tomato crop still averages late, but warmer weather the past few days was favorable for more rapid development. First shipments are expected June 3 to 10.

**WATERMELONS:** In Florida, the crop in the Leesburg area is in good condition, though somewhat later in development than normally. Most Texas early melon districts are in need of a good rain but crops are not suffering. Watermelons in Louisiana are backward due to the lateness of the season. Acreage has been reduced from last season. In Mississippi, plantings averaged about ten days late and are up only in the most southern counties.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Distribution Administration  
612 Cotton Exchange Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana.  
Official Business

Penalty for private use to avoid  
payment of postage \$ 300.00